

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT
Jacobs Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7888 • Fax: 517-373-2983
E-mail: sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov • www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD14



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CONTACT: Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods)
(517) 373-7888

Sen. Jacobs Applauds Congressional Approval of
“Fairness To Contact Lens Consumer Act”

(LANSING)— Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) applauded Congress today for passing the 'Fairness to Contact Lens Consumers Act,' which the president signed it into law last week.

"This is a victory for millions of contact lens users in Michigan," said Jacobs. "As of February 6, 2004, they will be allowed to take their prescriptions and shop for the best deal instead of being forced to pay artificially inflated prices."

Since 1978, eyeglass wearers have had the right to take their prescriptions from eye care providers and have them filled by the provider of their choice. Unfortunately, in Michigan, and many other states, that right had not been extended to people with contact lenses.

In each of her terms as a state lawmaker, Jacobs had introduced legislation to extend the freedom to choose providers to contact lens consumers. Each time, the legislation was stalled and eventually killed by opposition groups.

"Special interests held Michigan consumers hostage for five years," said Jacobs. "Each legislative session, they expended great effort to block my bill from becoming law. No more. I applaud Congress for their foresight. Our citizens have every right to this basic consumer protection."

Under the new law, eye doctors will be required to provide people who wear contact lenses with their prescriptions. They also are banned from charging a fee for providing a copy of the prescription to a patient.

Jacobs and supporters of the legislation estimate that it will save Michigan consumers an average of 20 percent by allowing them to purchase lenses from alternative merchants.

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